Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat comprising an upper, gas-permeable sheet and a lower gas impermeable sheet, the upper and lower sheets being maintained in spaced apart superimposed relationship by a plurality of spaced-apart load bearing means[[,]] which define a plurality of passageways that extend in different directions over substantially the full area of the fluidising mat and intersect with each other to form a single continuous chamber between the upper and lower sheets, at least the upper sheet being flexible.

2. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the passageways are partially defined by one of the upper and lower sheets.

3. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plurality of passageways define a continuous plenum chamber.

4. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 2, wherein the passageways are partially defined by the upper, gas-permeable sheet.

5. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the upper sheet comprises a plurality of perforations, [[e.g.]] including microperforations.

6. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of the load bearing means are secured to at least one of the upper and lower sheets.

7. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the load bearing means is secured to, or forms an integral part of, at least one of the upper and/or lower sheets.

8. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 7, wherein the load bearing means is secured only to the lower sheet.

9. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 7, wherein the load bearing means is secured or bonded to both the upper and lower sheets.

10. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load bearing means are flexible and/or resiliently deformable.

11. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the load bearing means comprise an ~~comprises a plurality of spaced-apart~~ encapsulated gas ~~bubbles~~ bubble.

12. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 11, further comprising an intermediate sheet positioned between said upper and lower sheets, which encapsulates said gas bubbles.

13. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the lower sheet partially encapsulates said gas bubbles.

14. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the lower sheet and the intermediate sheet are formed integrally.

15. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the load bearing means comprises ~~one or more of~~ a medium selected from the group consisting of a bonded fibre structure, a foam, a sintered polymeric structure, foam beads or a three-dimensional structure formed from superimposed layers of net-like structures, and combinations thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the perforated upper layer comprises an anti-static and/or electrically conductive material.

17. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the ~~upper and~~ lower ~~sheets~~ sheet is flexible.

18. (Currently Amended) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim [[17]] 1, wherein both of the upper and lower sheets are flexible.

19. (Previously Presented) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a single point connection for connecting the fluidising mat to a source of pressurized air or gas.

20. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 19, wherein the single point connection is located in the perimeter of the fluidising mat.

21. (Original) A fluidising mat as claimed in claim 20, wherein the single point connection is positioned on the mat such that, in use, it is adjacent to the discharge end of a container to which the mat is fitted.

22. (Currently Amended) A container liner comprising a fluidising mat ~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluidising mat comprises part of the container liner and~~, that includes an upper, gas-permeable sheet and a lower gas impermeable sheet, the upper and lower sheets being maintained in spaced apart superimposed relationship by a plurality of spaced-apart load bearing means which define a plurality of passageways that extend in different directions over substantially the full area of the fluidizing mat and intersect with each other to form a single continuous chamber between the upper and lower sheets the ~~perforated~~ upper sheet ~~forms~~ forming at least a part of the floor of the container liner.

23. (Original) A container liner as claimed in claim 22, further comprising retaining means for retaining the mat within the liner and for preventing discharge of the mat when the container is tipped.

24. (Previously Presented) A container liner as claimed in claim 22, wherein the fluidising mat is situated at least in the region of the liner immediately adjacent to a discharge port or ports.

25. (Currently Amended) A container comprising a fluidizing mat, that includes an upper, gas-permeable sheet and a lower gas impermeable sheet, the upper and lower sheets being maintained in spaced apart superimposed relationship by a plurality of spaced-apart load bearing means, which define a plurality of passageways that extend in different directions over substantially the full area of the fluidizing mat and intersect with each other to form a single continuous chamber between the upper and lower sheets ~~as claimed in claim 1~~.

26. (Currently Amended) A container ~~comprising a container liner~~ as claimed in claim [[21]] 25, further including a container liner.